

Appln No. 10/659,013
Amdt. Dated March 22, 2005
Response to Office Action of February 7, 2005

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**AMENDMENT**

In response to the Examiner's Office Action of February 7, 2005 the Applicant respectfully submits the accompanying Amendment to the claims and the below Remarks directed thereto.

Claims 1-10 are currently pending in the present application. In the Amendment:
independent claim 1 is amended to specify that the printer comprises a page-width color drop-on-demand microelectromechanical inkjet printhead. Support for this amendment can be found, for example, at page 4, lines 10-14; and page 4, line 30-page 5, line 5 of the present specification and in pending dependent claim 10;
dependent claim 10 is amended to conform to amended claim 1; and
dependent claims 2-9 are unchanged.

It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments do not add new matter to the present application.

REMARKS

The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication as to the allowability of claims 2-6, 9 and 10 under the conditions stated in the Office Action.

35 U.S.C. 102(e) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claim 8 dependent therefrom, is not disclosed by Tokura (US2003/0086113), for at least the following reasons.

The digital printing system of the present invention comprises a printer which utilises a page-width color drop-on-demand microelectromechanical inkjet (MEMJET) printhead. Such a printhead is capable of producing 1600 dpi, bi-level CMYK printing performance. Accordingly, it is necessary for the transmission system which operatively

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connects the printer to a personal computer to transmit compressed print data. Such compressed print data is based on a page layout containing a mixture of images, graphics and text. Using a drop-on-demand printhead requires the images, graphics and text to be compressed in separate streams for the contone images and graphics and the bi-level black text and graphics (see page 4, lines 10-14; and page 4, line 30-page 6, line 7 of the present specification).

On the other hand, Tokura is directed to a printer having a print engine 10 which controls an electrographic process including charging, exposure, image development, image transfer and fixing of an image onto a recording medium. As such the compression method used in Tokura is to divide the image into bands and compress each band of the image information (see paragraphs [0005], [0038] and [0043] of Tokura).

Thus, Tokura merely discloses a printing system comprising an electrographic printhead which requires a compression method which compresses print data in bands. Tokura does not disclose a drop-on-demand microelectromechanical inkjet printhead, as admitted by the Examiner in the indication of the allowability of pending dependent claim 10, nor the compression performed in the present invention which compresses print data based on the contone and bi-level features, as admitted by the Examiner in the indication of the allowability of pending dependent claim 2.

Thus, the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-10 dependent therefrom, is not disclosed by Tokura.

35 U.S.C. 103(a) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of dependent claim 7 is not taught or suggested by for at least the above and following reasons.

As discussed above, Tokura merely discloses a printing system comprising an electrographic printhead which requires a compression method which compresses print data in bands. There is no teaching or suggestion from the disclosure of Tokura to provide a printing system employing a drop-on-demand microelectromechanical inkjet printhead, nor is there any suggestion that such a printing system requires alternative compression techniques.

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Thus, the subject matter of claim 8, which is dependent from amended independent claim 1, is not taught or suggested by Tokura.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,

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